

Region VI Developmental Disabilities Newsletter



JANUARY 2003
VOLUME 6; ISSUE 1



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TEAM

As a result of the return to Regional Office configuration, the Developmental Disabilities Team has made the following changes:

Janice Davis

New Mexico State Council and P&A System
New Mexico Native American P&A System
Texas State Council and P&A System

Financial Operations for all Region VI States

Sharon Bulter

Arkansas State Council and P&A System
Oklahoma State Council and P&A System
Louisiana State Council and P&A System

The change was effective January 1, 2003.

Thank You for the Prompt Submittal
of Your Program Performance Reports
and Your Statements of Goals and
Priorities

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities Commissioner's Forum will take place on Tuesday, February 18 through Thursday, February 20, 2003 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. The theme of the 2003 Forum will be "Building a Comprehensive Quality Management Program and Supporting the Direct Support Workforce for DD Services Systems." In addition to members of the DD network, public and private partners will be invited to participate, including self-advocates and representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the U.S. Department of Education (NIDRR).

*Taken From: ADD Program Update
November 2002*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Nursing Home Quality Initiative

Nevada Plan

New Hampshire Plan

Phase II of SSA

Finance Corner

Early Head Start

Urban Partnership

\$100 Million to Indian Country

IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADOPTION

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced, October 23, 2002, about \$4 million in awards to 13 organizations to help eliminate barriers to adoption for children with special needs. The awards are part of the Adoption Opportunities Program.

The 2002 awards will support projects that increase adoption of minority children, provide services to families after they have adopted a child, and offer respite care for families who adopt special needs children. The awards are part of a broader effort to help children find adoptive homes. In July, a new web site, <http://www.adoptuskids.org> was launched. The site features photographs and biographies of more than 6,500 children in foster care. In September 2002, HHS' Administration for Children and Families announced a \$22 million, five year cooperative agreement with the Adoption Exchange Association in Denver to run the web site.

The awards may be renewed each year for three years under the program. ACF administers the Adoption Opportunities Program. A list of award recipients and first year funding amounts follows:

Developing Projects for Increasing Adoptive Placement of Minority Children

DePelchin Children's Center	Houston, Texas	\$220,000
-----------------------------	----------------	-----------

Developing Projects for Respite Care as a Service for Families who Adopt Children w/Special Needs

Office of Community Services	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	\$300,000
------------------------------	------------------------	-----------

NURSING HOME QUALITY INITIATIVE

Hhs launched the national Nursing Home Quality Initiative to further improve the quality of care given to the millions of Americans who live in nursing homes. The initiative combines new information for consumers about the quality of care provided in individual nursing homes with important resources available to nursing homes to improve the quality of care in their facilities.

The national launch follows the successful six-state pilot project, which involved nursing homes serving Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries in Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Washington. The pilot project launched in April 2002. On Wednesday, November 13th, HHS' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will publish advertisements in 71 newspapers in all 50 states that include a sampling of the quality data. The complete quality data, as well as "A Guide to Choosing A Nursing Home," are available at Medicare's consumer web site, <http://www.medicare.gov>, and through Medicare's help line, 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

*Taken From: HHS Press Release
November 12, 2002*

ANA

Quannah Crossland Stamps has been sworn in as commissioner of the Administration on Native Americans (ANA), a federal agency that promotes the goal of social and economic self-sufficiency of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Native Samoans and other Native American Pacific Islanders. The Administration for Native Americans is part of HHS' Administration for Children & Families.

ANA is the only federal agency serving all Native Americans.

NEVADA PLAN

Nevada's plan to expand the help it provides to disabled adults so they can remain in their homes and out of nursing facilities. With the change, Nevada will increase the number of people served under its home and community based waiver five-fold from 304 to 1,716 people.

Nevada's newly amended home and community-based services waiver will provide services to persons of any age who otherwise would require care in a nursing home. Previously, the waiver was limited to people ages 64 and older. Those served under this waiver will receive home support, personal care services, respite care, transportation, home delivered meals and other services to keep them at home. Nevada is also revising its waiver to include participant self-direction in choosing, training and supervising personal care providers.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PLAN

New Hampshire's plan to give families with Medicaid-eligible disabled children greater control of the care and services their children receive was approved. This change will make it easier for those children to remain in their own homes.

The New Hampshire waiver is the first of its kind under HHS' new Independence Plus initiative, which makes it easier for states to apply for waivers that give consumers more control of home-and-community based services through the state's Medicaid program.

The New Hampshire waiver will help coordinate services and provide enhanced services, including personal care, respite care, and home and vehicle modifications for eligible children with developmental disabilities. Families will be involved in planning all aspects of service delivery, including the selection of service providers. A "support broker" and a financial management service will assist families and individuals with self-directed process and deal with payroll taxes.

In 2002, HHS' Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created two Independence Plus waiver templates to help states develop programs for family-and-individually directed community services. The templates are designed to help states promote self-directed care and offer them tools to design programs that enable participant choice and independence. Programs approved under the initiative will delay institutional or other high cost out-of-home placement by strengthening supports to families or individuals, facilitate cost-effective decision making by families, and aid states in meeting their legal obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court's Olmstead ruling.

\$13 MILLION FOR HEALTH CENTERS

On December 9, 2002, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced 42 grants worth more than \$13 million to create new health center sites and expand capacity at existing centers in 23 states. The grants are expected to provide health care services for an additional 195,000 Americans.

The awards are the latest expansion of a five-year plan to add or expand health centers in 1,200 communities by 2006 and to increase the number of patients served annually to more than 16 million — up from 10 million in 2001. In fiscal year 2002, the first full year of the initiative, HHS funded 171 new health center sites and awarded 131 grants to existing centers to help them build capacity and expand services.

Health Centers deliver preventive and primary care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Nearly half of the patients treated at health centers have no insurance coverage, and others have inadequate coverage. Charges for health care services are set according to income, and fees are not collected from the poorest clients.

Today's grants include 20 New Access Points awards worth almost \$8.3 million and 22 Expanded Medical Capacity grants totaling more than \$4.7 million. HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) manages the Consolidated Health Center Program, which received more than \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2002. The program funds a national network of more than 3,400 community health centers and clinics, migrant health centers, health care for the homeless centers, public housing primary care centers and school-based health centers.

URBAN PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

10 major metropolitan areas were selected to participate in HHS' Urban Partnership Initiative—a new effort designed to help communities that continue to have relatively high concentrations of welfare recipients. The communities selected are: Baltimore, Maryland; Miami, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Detroit, Michigan; Grand Prairie, Texas (Arlington, Dallas, Ft. Worth applying jointly); St. Lois, Minnesota; Omaha, Nebraska; Oakland, California; and Seattle, Washington.

Through this initiative, HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF), which oversees the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, and HHS' Office of the Secretary for Planning and Evaluation will work closely with the cities and countries involved to develop strategies to support and sustain families as they become economically independent.

The Urban Partnership Initiative consists of two components. The first is a two-day "Academy for Urban Welfare Participants" which will convene in Dallas in February 2003.

continued on page 5

The participating communities will share information about their experiences and learn of promising self-sufficiency strategies. Additionally, individualized plans will be developed to help participants move their welfare reform agenda forward. HHS will provide funding for the academy and the cost of participation for three team members.

The second component is 10 months of in-depth individualized technical assistance designed to help the communities carry out the strategies developed at the academy. The technical assistance can be in the form of HHS funded consultant or facilitation services designed to build and better manage TANF programs.

\$100 MILLION TO INDIAN COUNTY

At a national conference on diabetes prevention in American Indian communities, HHS announced \$100 million in grants to support programs to prevent and treat diabetes among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Funded through HHS' Indian Health Services (IHS), the grants will go to 318 tribal, urban Indian, Indian organizations and IHS health programs to support diabetes prevention and treatment programs, including efforts to reduce cardiovascular disease associated with diabetes. Most of these programs involve elements aimed at preventing type 2 diabetes among Indian youth.

About 17 million Americans have diabetes today, including about 16 million with type 2. In addition, at least 16 million more Americans have pre-diabetes—a condition that raises a person's risk of getting type 2 diabetes. On average, American Indians and Alaska Natives are 2.6 times more likely to have diabetes than non-Hispanic whites of similar age.

*Taken From: HHS Weekly Report
December 15-21, 2002*

PHASE II OF SSA

The Social Security Administration has launched the second phase of a new program designed to help people with disabilities go to work—the Ticket to Work program.

Social Security disability and Supplemental Security Income disability beneficiaries will receive a ticket that may be used to obtain vocational rehabilitation, job training, and other support services. The voluntary program will be in operation nationwide by January 2004.

In November 2002, about 2.6 million beneficiaries received tickets in the following states: Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The first phase of the ticket program began in February 2002 in Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Those who have questions, should call Maximus, Inc., the organization selected to administer the program, toll-free at 1-866-968-7846. TDD/TDY users should call 1-866-833-2967. Internet users can visit www.yourtickettowork.com.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES WITH DEPT. OF ED

On December 24, 2002 the U.S. Department of Education announced grant opportunities.:

Research and Innovation to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities CFDA# 84.324

Purpose: To product and advance the use of knowledge to improve the results of education and early intervention for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.

Eligible Applicants: State education agencies; local educational agencies; institutions of higher education; other public agencies; nonprofit private organizations; outlying areas; freely associated States and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

Personnel Preparation to Improve Services & Results of Children with Disabilities CFDA# 84.325

Purpose: The purposes of this program are to (1) help address State identified needs for qualified personnel in special education, related services, early intervention & regular education—to work with children with disabilities and (2) ensure that those personnel have the skills and knowledge - derived from practices that have been determined through research and experience to be successful - that are needed to serve those children.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education

Technical Assistance & Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities CFDA# 84.327

Purpose: To (1) improve results for children with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology; (2) support educational media activities designed to be of educational value to children with disabilities; and (3) provide support for some captioning, video description, and cultural activities.

Eligible Applicants: State and local educational agencies; institutions of higher education; other public agencies; nonprofit private organizations; outlying areas; freely associated states; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations.

Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities CFDA# 84.328

Purpose: To ensure that parents of children with disabilities receive training and information to help them improve results for their children.

Eligible Applicants: Local parent organizations as defined at Section 682(g) of IDEA.

More information at: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2002-4/122402d.html>.

EARLY HEAD START

\$72 million in grants will be going to 160 local agencies to administer the Early Head Start Program. The funds will be used to increase Early Head Start enrollment by approximately 7,000 infants and toddlers, bring total Early Head Start enrollment to 62,400.

Findings from a seven-year national evaluation of the Early Head Start program released in June 2002 showed the 3-year old children completing the program performed better in cognitive and language development than children not participating in the program. The children also developed behavior patterns that prepared them for success in school, such as engaging in tasks, paying attention, and showing less aggression. Parents of Early Head Start showed more positive parenting behavior, reported less physical punishment of their children and did more to help their children learn at home through activities such as reading to their children. The effects of the program were sustained and broadened from earlier assessments completed a year ago when the group of children was 2 years old. A copy of the study can be found at <http://www.headstartinfo.org/cgi-bin/pubcatstore.cfm>

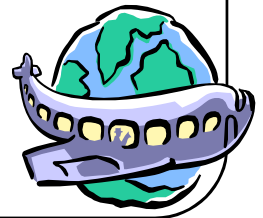
*Taken From: HHS Press Release
January 9, 2003*

FINANCE CORNER

Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations OMB Circular A-122

Did you know that direct charges for foreign travel costs are allowable only when the travel has received prior approval of the awarding agency. Each separate foreign trip must be approved.

For purposes of this provision, foreign travel is defined as any travel outside of Canada and the United States and its territories and possessions. However, for an organization located in foreign countries, the term "foreign travel" means outside that country.



We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore.

-Mark Twain

New Freedom Initiative

As part of President George W. Bush's New Freedom Initiative, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is conducting a series of free workshops for small businesses on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These workshops, which include information on tax incentives and community resources, are aimed at encouraging businesses with 15 to 100 employees to hire individuals with disabilities.

More information can be found at: <http://www.eeoc.gov/press/5-23-02.html>

The *Region VI Developmental Disabilities Newsletter* is issued 6 times a year by the Region VI Administration for Children & Families.

Look for the next Newsletter in March 2003

Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation

The Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation, Inc. (ELA) is pleased to announce that the 2003 ELA Scholarship application is now available in the scholarship section of the ELA website (www.ela.org). The scholarship provides financial assistance to women with physical disabilities who are enrolled in a college or university graduate program in the United States.

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children & Families
1301 Young Street,
Room 945 / ACF-3
Dallas, Texas 75202-5433

**Administration for Children &
Families - Region VI**

Leon R. McCowan
Regional Administrator

**Developmental Disabilities
Team**

Fax: 214-767-8124

Janice Davis, Team Leader
(214) 767-8075
jdavis@acf.hhs.gov

Sharon Butler, Program Specialist
(214) 767-8093
sbutler@acf.hhs.gov

address correction requested

highlights..

**ACF Region VI
Developmental Disabilities
Newsletter**